

**From:** Bryon Rigg  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I just wanted to drop a note to clarify my disgust with the handling of the MS settlement. Microsoft is guilty of antitrust violations by using their monopoly standing to crush their competition, (see Netscape). While they continue to talk about how they provide innovation after innovation, what they are really doing is finding innovations that others make and then use their monopoly position to manipulate and squash the creators and then take their ideas as their own.

Don't believe me? See Apple.

The settlement is nothing more than a joke. What you are really doing is providing MS with the opportunity to increase their market share in the education sector as well as train tomorrow's adults to use MS products rather than expose them to alternatives.

MS whined about being broken up, saying that it destabilize the market and reduce shareholder value. Bull. I am a MS shareholder. The best example that I can think of that this is bull is the breakup of AT&T. At the time, no one was sure if it was the right thing to do. However, any stock holder that hung on to their shares will tell you that the value of their holdings of AT&T as a monopoly did not compare to the value of their holding of AT&T and the Baby Bells. Furthermore, the breakup did open up competition just as it was intended to.

As a stock holder, I would happily see a break-up of MS. I have complete confidence that the consumer, as well as the stockholders, would be better off.